

**MEETING NOTES**  
**Economic and Social Impact Study Committee Meeting**  
**June 29, 2007**

Attendees:

See sign-in sheet.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Chair Linda Dorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Salinity Guidance Discussion**

Regional Water Board Assistant Executive Officer Ken Landau presented a summary of the presentation that he, Executive Officer Pamela Creedon and Daniel Cozad gave to the Policy Group Steering Committee on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Ken noted that addressing salinity in NPDES permits and waste discharge requirements is now a high priority for the Regional Water Board. The Board has developed guidance for permitting staff, with the goal of a similar response to similar situations. He stressed that this is not new policy, and not a “cookbook” but more like a decision tree.

Ken responded to questions from Committee members. He stated that the approach used in the Tracy and Mountain House permits, of including a financial contribution from the discharger as part of the permit requirements, was not a template and was based on their particular circumstances. Dan suggested that at some future date maybe a “water master” model could be used to manage salts in the basin and broker salt loads, credits etc.

**3. Comments on Baseline Salinity Modeling Assumptions**

Richard Howitt reviewed the comments received from the Committee and the proposed approach to those comments. (See power point presentation.)

With regard to salinity load impacts and projections, Richard indicated that anthropogenic sources will be separated from natural sources, but probably won't significantly affect the study because the focus is incremental changes. With regard to climate change, it was agreed that the model should be run with historical data first and then par down the existing 100-year climate model to a 30 year projection to see if the extreme hot and extreme cold projections still show a trend

The Committee mentioned that the study should consider the salt being brought into the State for ethanol production. Dr. Dennis Westcott is developing a salt factor for each rail car that can be plugged into the study.

One key issue that is in flux is Delta exports. Following discussion, it was agreed that Richard would draft various scenarios based on the Delta alternatives to quantify salt reductions for discussion at the next meeting.

The Committee also discussed the audience for the report. Richard suggested it is the regulated community and currently unregulated activities that could be affected by the salt "fixes" and will need to be part of the ultimate solution. Richard asked for input from the committee regarding the report purpose, target audience, and report outline. He will bring a proposed report outline to the next meeting for discussion, and it was suggested that members come to the meeting with ideas regarding the target audience and report purpose. Those not able to attend the next meeting can email their suggestions to Richard at [howitt@primal.ucdavis.edu](mailto:howitt@primal.ucdavis.edu),

The Schedule for the Report is as follows:

Draft report to Committee for review in mid-October for 30 day comment period;  
Final Report due December 31, 2007.

#### **4. Non-Market Survey**

One thousand surveys were sent out. Of these 638 were "positive" (Sent to a correct address.) Of the 638 surveys, 326 have been returned. The next step is a phone survey to follow up with the non-responders. Richard stated that Doug Larson, who is overseeing the non-market survey, will participate in the July meeting.

#### **5. Economic Component of Hilmar SEP**

David Sunding of U.C. Berkeley presented the study he is conducting, which focuses on point sources of salts in the Stanislaus County area. He noted that the study is complementary to the UCD study, though on a more detailed scale. The study is evaluating various management techniques to reduce salt loadings from the food processing industry, and looking at the capital and operating costs of alternatives approaches compared to the economic benefits of the anticipated improvements.

The study will examine several disposal options;

- Centralized disposal (either to a POTW or industrial facility)
- Land application (either local or regional)
- In-plant abatement

- Out of Basin disposal (brine lines and deep well injection).

For urban groundwater supply projections, the study is using information from 34 urban water management plants. These show an increase in urban water use of 80% by 2030.

The schedule for the report is:

- Draft report due August 15, 2007
- Public Workshop in mid-September 2007
- Peer review Comments completed by October 15, 2007
- Final report due: December 15, 2007.

A copy of Dr. Sunding's presentation is available at [www.hilmarsep.com](http://www.hilmarsep.com)

## **6. Google Maps of Salt Loads**

Geoff Ryder gave a brief overview of Google Maps and how the website can be used to map salt loads.

## **7. Update on Salinity Strategy Report**

Dan Cozad reported that he is preparing a Salinity Strategy Report. A draft will be available in August or September. The Report will draw on the work of the various committees and the Steering Committee to provide a blueprint for the salinity management effort.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon, Rm. 1610 at the Cal EPA building 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA.